Blackened Beaches in North Goa

2160. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact three prominent to beaches in North Goa Coastline were recently blackened;

(b) if so, what are the names thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to clean the Coastline?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) During the month of May, 2001, there were widespread incidents of oily sediments, tar balls and other oily substances being washed to the shore all along the coastline of Goa starting from the Northern beaches of Arombol, Candolim and Sinquerim to the southern beaches of Varca and Mopor. These only substances are supposed to originate from oil spills in the sea due to tanker washings, accidents and leakages that occur in the Arabian Sea all along the route of the movement of oil tankers to and fro from the Gulf countries. Minor oil spills from fishing boasts and other vessels in and around the major port of Murmugao and other smaller ports also contribute to the problem.

(c) The State Government of Goa has on some occasions, undertaken cleaning of such beaches. It has been reported by the Goa Government that, in course of time, such oily sediments and other oily substances disappear due to biodegradation, evoporation and are also washed back to the sea.

Licensed zoos

2161. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licensed zoos, sanctuaries and parks in the country;

(b) the nodal authority for recognizing zoos all over the country; and

(c) whether there are any guidelines for issuing licences to zoos?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There are 178 recognised zoos, 497 sanctuaries and. 89 national parks in the country.

(b) and (c) The Central Zoo Authority is the nodal authority for granting recognition to zoos in the country. Recognition is granted by the authority after evaluation of the zoo with reference to standards and norms prescribed under the 'Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992'.

Improvement of Environment in Gujarat

2162. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects undertaken for improvement of environment in Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) the extent of success achieved; and

(c) the details of other such projects to be undertaken in the State during the remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Environmental clearance to Andhra Pradesh Proposal

2163. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONEMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of proposals sent by Andhra Pradesh Government for environmental and forest clearance;

(b) the present status of these proposal; and

(c) by when the clearance is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The details and status of 87 proposals received for forestry clearance from 1998 to June 2001 and 15 proposals received for environmental clearance during July, 1998 to